

Claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,968,189 (hereinafter "Desnoyers"). It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Desnoyers.

Desnoyers discloses an error message generated by a hardware element of a distributed computer system when an error is detected, and the error message is then forwarded from the hardware element to one or more designated processing nodes of the distributed computer system. (Abstract). However, Desnoyers does not teach or disclose "distributing the alarm report based upon a distribution list in real time" as recited in claims 1 and 17 of the present invention. The present invention forwards an alarm report in real time based upon a distribution list, as disclosed on page 9, lines 18 – 25 and page 4, lines 8 – 10 of the specification. The real time distribution based upon a distribution list allows notification of personnel such that system downtime is minimized.

In contrast, Desnoyers does not teach real time distribution. The communications adapter of Desnoyers spontaneously reports any detected critical errors (see col. 7, lines 63 – 67) but this does not mean that it is done in real time. In fact, col. 7, lines 60 – 62 states that "[w]hen the adapter receives the information, it is stored within hardware storage elements of the adapter" but does not state how long it is stored before the information is reported.

Additionally, Desnoyers does not disclose a distribution list. It is not taught or suggested that the one or more designated processing nodes of Desnoyers is on a distribution list, nor is it taught how they came to be designated. The reference teaches sending a packet for a first designated processing node through a designated primary port and a packet for a second designated processing node through a designated secondary port, thereby increasing the probability that one of the packets will get through the system to one of the designated nodes or

through one of the designated routes. (col. 8, lines 28 – 34). It is not taught or suggested that the nodes being reached through different ports are actually on a distribution list.

Based on at least the arguments set forth hereinabove, independent claims 1 and 17 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Desnoyers. It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Desnoyers for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 17.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,



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